

## **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates generally to a method for treating or ameliorating the symptoms of or reducing or otherwise minimizing the risk of development of an autoimmune disease such as but not limited to autoimmune diabetes. More particularly, the present invention relates to the use of genetically modified hemopoietic stem cells and/or hemopoietic progenitor cells which express genetic material encoding one or more autoantigens which give rise to antigen-presenting cells that induce immune tolerance and/or protective immunity. The present invention provides, therefore, a method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of autoimmune disease conditions such as type 1 diabetes.